

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 and 6-37 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application directed to the canceled subject matter.

Claims 1, 28, 32, and 35 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 5, which was indicated by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. See Office Action at page 6. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in the present specification at pages 3-7, and claim 5 as originally filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 9-11, 18-25, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,460,883 to Barber. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4, 18-21, 24-25, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,312,569 to Philips et al. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are moot in light of the amendments made in this response, and therefore request that they be withdrawn.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, 18, 21-25, and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,282,011 to Terpay in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,460,883 to Barber and U.S. Pat. No. 6,270,562 B1 to Jia. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of the amendments made in this response, this rejection is moot and request its withdrawal.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

IV. Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on October 15, 2001. To date, the undersigned has not received a copy of the initialed Forms PTO-1449 that were submitted with this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner send the undersigned a copy of the initialed Forms PTO-1449 (13 pages) with the next Official Communication from the PTO. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 202-408-4162 if any materials submitted with this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement were not received by the Examiner.

IV. Conclusion

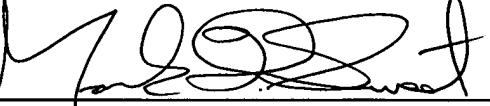
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

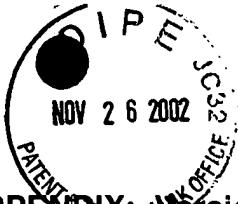
Dated: November 26, 2002

By: 
Mark D. Sweet

Reg. No. 41,469

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com



Attorney Docket No. 3626.0034-09
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APPENDIX A Version with Markings To show Changes Mad

TC 1700

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 § (c)(1)(ii)

(Amended) An at least partially coated fiber strand comprising a plurality of glass fibers having a powdered coating composition on at least a portion of at least one of the glass fibers, the powdered coating composition comprising at least one coating comprising greater than 20 weight percent on a total solids basis of a plurality of particles selected from inorganic particles, organic hollow particles, composite particles, and mixtures of any of the foregoing, wherein the plurality of particles have a Mohs' hardness value which does not exceed the Mohs' hardness value of the glass fibers.

28. (Amended) An at least partially coated fiber strand comprising a plurality of glass fibers having a powdered coating composition on at least a portion of a surface of at least one of said glass fibers, the powdered coating composition comprising:

- (a) a plurality of hollow organic particles having a Mohs' hardness value which does not exceed the Mohs' hardness value of the glass fibers; and
- (b) at least one polymeric material different from at least one of the hollow organic particles.

32. (Amended) A glass fiber comprising a powdered coating composition comprising at least one coating comprising greater than 20 weight percent on a total solids basis of a plurality of particles selected from inorganic particles, organic hollow particles, and composite particles, wherein the plurality of particles have a Mohs' hardness value which does not exceed the Mohs' hardness value of the glass fiber.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

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Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

35. (Amended) A glass fiber comprising a powdered coating composition comprising:

(a) a plurality of hollow organic particles having a Mohs' hardness value which does not exceed the Mohs' hardness value of the glass fiber; and

(b) at least one polymeric material different from at least one of the hollow organic particles.

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GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

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